

You Might Be Thinking...

# Who Needs a Class K License?

By Jay Patel



## You Need A Class K License If...

- θ Your facility has a Wastewater Treatment Unit.

- θ To operate this Industrial Treatment Unit, you need a Class K license from the State.

## Important to note...

- θ Class K licenses issued are facility/site specific.

## Some Important Information Regarding Class K License...

- θ Class K and Class R certificates issued during 2019 or earlier shall expire on July 1, 2024.
- θ These certificates are non-renewable.
  - θ Operators must retake the examination and reapply when Class K or Class R certificate expires.
- θ There are no training hours requirements to recertify at this time.
- θ Just need to retake the exam upon expiration.

Examinees should be capable of providing, without the use of supplemental aids, information pertaining to an industrial wastewater treatment works in the following areas:

- Flow schematics;
- Purpose of each treatment unit;
- Theory of operation (principles of treatment) for each treatment unit;
- Measures used to prevent and correct process upsets;
- Methods used for solids handling;
- Sludge disposal techniques;
- Sources, characteristics, and concentrations of the wastes treated;
- Removal efficiencies for each treatment unit;
- Effluent monitoring requirements;
- Laboratory techniques and interpretation of laboratory results;
- Safety considerations;
- Rules and regulations which apply;
- Record keeping

# CURRENTLY THERE ARE...

7195 Valid Class K Certificates

362 Class R Operators

## Process to certify...

- 1 Submit Exam Request Form 30 days prior to desired exam.
- 2 Receive Letter of Admission & schedule exam.
- 3 Pass Exam (if you don't pass, return to step 1).
- 4 Receive full certification (valid for 5 years for Class K).

Wastewater operator forms can be found at...

[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/forms/water-forms/Pages/wastewater-operator.aspx](http://*****2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/forms/water-forms/Pages/wastewater-operator.aspx)

# 2024 Wastewater Examination Location & Date

January 9

February 6

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10



If you have any questions...

Call Springfield: (217) 785-0561 or email:  
[EPA.OperatorCertification@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.OperatorCertification@illinois.gov)

**IEPA - Des Plaines**  
9511 Harrison Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016





Effective July 1, 2019, significant changes to the wastewater certification program regarding certificate expiration and renewal were made by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 380.700,

**Class 1 and Class 2 Certificates of Technical Competency issued 2020 or earlier expired on July 1, 2023.**

- Training Hours required for Class 1 and Class 2
  - 30 hours every 3 years (minimum 20 hours technical)
- Training Hours required for Class 3 and Class 4
  - 15 hours every 3 years (minimum 10 hours technical)

**All other certificates expire 3 years after July 1 of the calendar year in which the certificate was issued.**

# Some Information on The Different Groups...

- Group 1 all wastewater treatment facilities 1.0 MGD or more design average flow (DAF) excluding lagoon systems and primary treatment systems
- Group 2 activated sludge systems with a DAF of less than 1.0 MGD
- Group 3 fixed film processes, stationary and rotating trickling filters, Rotating Biological Contactors, Imhoff tank systems, and sand filters with a DAF of less than 1.0 MGD and all primary treatment systems
- Group 4 all aerated and non-aerated lagoon treatment systems

## **The certified wastewater operator requirements for each group of wastewater treatment facilities are as follows:**

- Group 1 wastewater treatment facilities require a certified Class 1 wastewater operator.
- Group 2 wastewater treatment facilities require a certified Class 2 or Class 1 wastewater operator.
- Group 3 wastewater treatment facilities require a certified Class 3, Class 2, or Class 1 wastewater operator.
- Group 4 wastewater treatment facilities require a certified Class 4, Class 3, Class 2, or Class 1 wastewater operator.

# Some Requirements...

## **Class 1 - Requires a total of 6 years' experience**

Minimum eligibility requirement - High school completion or GED certificate plus

3 years' wastewater operator experience and the equivalent of 3 years substitutional experience

## **Class 2 – Requires a total of 4 years' experience**

Minimum eligibility requirement - High school completion or GED certificate

plus 2 years' wastewater operator experience and the equivalent of 2 years' substitutional experience

## **Class 3 - Requires a total of 2 years' experience**

Minimum eligibility requirement - High school completion or GED certificate plus

1 year wastewater operator experience and the equivalent of 1-year substitutional experience

## **Class 4 - Requires a total of 1 year experience**

Minimum eligibility requirement - 6 months' wastewater operator experience and the equivalent of 6 months substitutional experience

# What Counts as Experience?

Wastewater operator experience includes direct hands-on physical operation of wastewater treatment equipment and/or wastewater treatment processes, direct active field supervision of wastewater treatment equipment and/or wastewater treatment processes, and/or direct and active involvement in process control decisions for wastewater treatment processes.

Wastewater operator experience may be acquired at a domestic/municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

# Do You Have Substitutional Experience?

Substitutional experience includes credit for completion of wastewater courses, credit for completed college work (applicable to Classes 3, 2 and 1 only), credit for completion of college programs one-year in length designed specifically for wastewater treatment works operation, credit for experience operating collection systems or drinking water supplies. The only time college credit can be applied toward Class 4 eligibility is upon the successful completion of a one-year college program specifically designed for wastewater treatment works operation, which includes actual operation of a wastewater treatment works, and may be substituted for a maximum of one year wastewater operator experience, such as with the program offered through ERTC at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Partial credit for laboratory and/or maintenance experience at a wastewater treatment works may be granted only after hands-on wastewater operating experience has been obtained.